

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

13 October 1953

The President:

- I want to go over with you again the concept I have of the National Security Council - what it is and what it does.
- There are two concepts of the Security Council around Washington:
  - One is that the members of the Council come here as representatives of their various agencies - to be their lawyers and advocates to defend the rights or claims of the agencies represented here.
  - The other is that the members are here as individuals, rich in knowledge and experience here as wise men to arrive at corporate decisions.
    - It is somewhat like membership on the Joint Chiefs of Staff - whose members are not serving as representatives of services as separate bodies.
- I hope all here have come to give the best they've got. All over Washington meetings which argue over money matters are failures. What we want from you here are your brains and your hearts.